

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

Question: In your family, who cries like an open spigot? Like a drippy faucet? Is there anyone that doesn't cry?

Read Esther 4

A Painful Decision

"When Mordecai learned all that had been done...." (Esther 4:1)

For Review: As a quick reminder, what has been going on in Chapter 3?

How does Mordecai respond to the news?
How did the rest of the Jews respond as well?

Read Joel 2:12-14

Question: How is the Jew's response in Esther 4 similar to Joel 2? Which phrases can you find in Esther 4 and Joel 2? Why do you think this is important?

What request does Mordecai make of Esther?
How is this risky for Esther?
What was Esther's initial response?

What options does Esther have as the Queen?
What options does she have as a Jew?

Question: How would you have responded if you were in Esther's situation?

- I would have taken the risk.
- I would have hidden in a closet somewhere and hoped the situation would pass.
- I would have asked someone else to take the risk.
- Other: _____

For Discussion: Can you think of a situation where you would go "against the law" like Esther does for a solution?

A Remarkable Hope

Read Esther 4:12-14 again.

Mordecai knows the promises of God. He knows that God is faithful to keep his covenant. He knows that the Lord has sworn to relent when His people turn back to him. He knows that deliverance and relief will come.

He is resting in promises of God that never fail. He can trust the Lord who reigns over this evil King and his sidekick Haman.

Question: Why do you think Mordecai was able to trust the Lord in this way?

- He is out of options
- He knows the promises of God
- I don't know
- He'd seen God deliver before
- Other: _____

How confident in the promises of God are you? How does a person grow in their confidence in God?

What does this statement do for you in these areas of life?

"God is in control, so I don't have to be."

- Finances
- Current events
- Family life
- Problems in my life
- Other: _____

How does Mordecai show us how to live in the truth that

"God is in control, so I don't have to be."?

For fun and encouragement... How does Esther's risk point us to Jesus?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
